

Hi. My name is Amy Orebaugh and I'm a singer, songwriter and musiclover who lives in Los Angeles. I've been in several bands and have recorded and distributed several pop and rock albums, all without being signed by a label. I also love the radio. I love hearing a mix of different artists and especially love learning about new and up-and-coming ones, without having to change CDs every hour.

I've written several dozen songs, about 15 of which have been recorded. I've also recorded about 10 cover songs. I've been a part of 3 full-length albums that have been released and self-distributed. I've been performing since I was 5, starting in church in Fort Worth, TX, then into college at Pepperdine University in Malibu, then throughout clubs and halls in California and Texas. I'm not currently with a band, but when I am, I try to play live at least twice a month.

I have only contacted one radio station with my music - the TCU radio station in Fort Worth. They played my song several times. While I have several top-quality, radio-ready songs recorded, since I'm without a band at the moment, I haven't been pursuing radio play. I'll resume that effort once I'm playing live, consistantly again.

As far as radio stations that "get-it" when it comes to local music, I love everything about Indie 103.1 in Los Angeles. They play an amazing mix of music - from punk to Sinatra to rock to alternative to folk to reggae to country. They also work very hard to highlight local, unsigned artists. KCRW, the public radio station in LA, works equally hard to give exposure to unsigned bands. But, these stations don't have the bandwidth and listeners to really reach the majority of people in this city. Stations like KROQ, KYSR and KLOS should and could be doing much more with local bands. Even if they won't play them on the radio stations, they should be sponsoring and promoting their live performances.

While I do not completely understand all that's involved with national playlists, I cannot agree with a system that limits the freedom or choices that a given, individual radio station has. It seems to me that what listeners want in Los Angeles is somewhat different than what listeners want in New Orleans, or Seattle, or El Paso, or Miami, or Charlotte, or Nashville, or Buffalo, or Washington DC, or Chicago. Those stations should not be bound by a national playlist. They should be able to play a variety of music and artists that will appeal to their individual, unique listener base. Perhaps all programming decisions should be made at the local level. I'm not sure. But I do think this concept needs to be investigated and discussed, at length.

I would like to congratulate you on your decision to offer low power FM stations. You've given stations without the money, bandwidth or advertising base the chance to play quality, often unrecognized music and change the way music reaches the masses. I would like to see more of these low power licenses made available, especially in large cities or to college radio stations who are usually on the cutting edge of music and the local scene, but desperately strapped for funds and resources.

Thanks for your time and attention to this very important matter. I hope that you will continue to focus on this issue and address it with a public proceeding immediately.

Sincerely,

Amy Orebaugh